

from Allianz of America on April 10, 2015 after working for over 38 years at the firm and its antecedent companies, most notably Allianz Life, which is headquartered in my district in Golden Valley.

Marlene began her career in the typing and steno pool of North American Life Insurance and Casualty Company on August 16, 1976 and moved up in fast order to become the Executive Assistant to CEO Howard Barnhill. Her tenure with the company coincided with its purchase by the German Insurance giant Allianz AG in 1979. Marlene served four other company CEOs and at the time of her retirement she was the Personal Assistant to Allianz of America Chairman and Member of the Allianz SE Board of Management, Gary Bhojwani.

Office technology, fashion styles and even eating habits have changed dramatically since Marlene started in the mid-1970s, sometimes for the better and sometimes not. However, one thing that is constant is that every CEO and organization needs a person like Marlene Devine who can be counted on to keep things organized, communicate information, and serve as a friend and counsel to everyone around them. As we all know, today's work life can at times be all-consuming, and Marlene's greatest strength was her ability to make everyone feel special and appreciated. In doing so, she was mentor to hundreds of people within the company, many of whom rose to the highest executive positions within Allianz. Marlene's personal warmth, integrity, good judgment, dedication, and humor made her very valued and beloved.

Marlene is married to Dan Devine, and they reside in Savage, Minnesota. They have three grown children, Stephanie, Kyle, and Whitney; and two grandsons, Joshua Stewart and Hunter Johnson, who are all a source of pride and happiness. Marlene is an avid gardener, enjoys her cats and reading, and loves a good day on the river fishing with Dan. She and her twin sister Marilyn Wille are known for their long "Thelma and Louise" automobile excursions that have taken them all across the United States.

Mr. Speaker, we live in a period of time of fast movement where people change jobs and companies regularly during the course of their careers. However, as we all know from our own offices, institutional knowledge is essential, and those dedicated people who have it are the key to our success. Marlene Devine deserves our praise for an exemplary life that touched so many people. I offer my best wishes to her and Dan on the next chapter of their lives, and for many years of good health and happiness.

**RECOGNIZING KAREN ERICKSON  
FOR HER OUTSTANDING COMMIT-  
MENT TO THE BUFFALO COMMU-  
NITY**

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 10, 2015*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize and honor Mrs. Karen Erickson for her work in the South Buffalo community. Mrs. Erickson has dedicated her career to acting as a public servant as well as giving back to her native community.

Mrs. Erickson is a South Buffalo native who attended Mt. Mercy Academy in 1963 and received her Associate Degree from Erie Community College and her Bachelor's Degree from Houghton College. It was during the Jack Donohue 5K Race that Mrs. Erickson began the tradition of serving hot dogs along with her sorority sisters, a tradition which has continued after the retirement of "Jack's 5K" into the Mount Mercy Alumnae Race.

Besides her contributions to Mount Mercy Academy Mrs. Erickson has also been the Athletic Director for Most Precious Blood School and the organizer of the George Leather, MPB Invitational Basketball Tournament for 25 years. She has also served on the Diocesan School Board, the School Board at St. Francis High School, Community Concern, and various organizations in the Town of Evans. She currently serves on the Board of the Business and Finance Academy at Lake Shore Central High School, Vice President of the Evans Democratic Club and serves on the Evans Economic Development Committee. Additionally she has, for the past five years, organized the Connors' 5K Wiener Run to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Lake Shore. Finally Mrs. Erickson was the Deputy Supervisor in the Town of Evans for 12 years.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor and recognize Mrs. Karen Erickson. I ask that my colleagues join me congratulating Mrs. Erickson on an accomplished career, and to commend her for the exemplary work she has done to enrich the communities of Western New York.

**COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF  
SHIRLEY JEANNE MOSCOV STARK**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 10, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Shirley Jeanne Moscov Stark. Mrs. Stark passed away May 4, 2015, and, during her nearly 85 years, she impacted the lives of everyone she touched.

Trailblazer is a word we hear often about those who pave the way for future generations. Rarely has that term been more fittingly used than now as we pay tribute to Shirley. Shirley Jeanne Moscov was born October 18, 1930, and raised in Canonsburg, PA, a small town outside of Pittsburgh. She was the daughter of Polish Jewish immigrants who first arrived in New York and eventually settled in Western Pennsylvania. Her parents ran one of the few grocery stores in town and lived above the store. As was true with so many immigrants of that era, they never took a vacation or attended family events together—the store had to be open to serve the community. This was the Great Depression; her parents would extend credit to their neighbors who couldn't afford to pay for needed food and supplies, and Shirley learned from a young age the value of charity and serving the needs of others.

Shirley was an exceptionally bright and curious child. She read every book in the local library and excelled at school. But in a small coal town, educational opportunities were scarce. Few boys went to college and even fewer girls. In her early teens, one of her

teachers recognized her abilities and potential and encouraged Shirley to apply to a very select program for gifted high school students offered by the University of Chicago. Shirley took the entrance exam and earned not only a perfect score, but admittance to the University. At the age of 15, Shirley boarded a train to Chicago to begin her studies. Two years later, at 17, she had earned a Bachelor's Degree. Shirley returned to Pennsylvania where she enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh earning a Masters Degree in Mathematics. She was recruited by Westinghouse and heralded by the press as "The World's Youngest Nuclear Physicist at 19." While working at Westinghouse, she continued her studies and received yet another Masters Degree in psychology. A few years later, she married Sidney Stark, Jr. and decided to postpone her professional career in favor of raising a family.

Parallel to Shirley's love of science was her passion in the fields of travel, music, art, and architecture. When her children, Seth and Sid, entered elementary school, she decided to pursue her passions and enrolled in graduate studies at the University of Pittsburgh Fine Arts Department. She spent summers and vacations in Europe expanding her knowledge and expertise. During her life she traveled to five continents and dozens of countries. Shirley was an inspiring teacher; she chaired the Art Department at Chatham College for seven years and taught various courses in Art and Architectural History at Carnegie Mellon University well into her later years. During this time, she also opened a small business, Travel Bound Books, and served as a consultant to specialized tours throughout Europe that focused on mankind's greatest artistic and architectural creations.

With all of these achievements, Shirley is best remembered as charming and vivacious. Her home was always full of laughter, music, loved ones, and of course, great food. New Year's Eve parties, Seders, crab and lobster feasts, and holiday dinners at the Stark house were legendary. Shirley was a loving and devoted daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend, and she made every person she met feel special and unique. Her sharp wit and sparkling spirit were infectious, and all who met her felt they were lucky and blessed to have known her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of Shirley Jeanne Moscov Stark and in extending my deepest condolences to her family and friends. She will be greatly missed.

**KILLUM PEST CONTROL, INC.**

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 10, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate all members of the Killum Pest Control, Inc. team who were honored with the Winner of Distinction Award at the Better Business Bureau Awards for Excellence.

Killum Pest Control, Inc. is one of 314 companies recognized by the Better Business Bureau Awards of Excellence for their commitment and integrity. They have now been recognized twice for their achievements. We are extremely proud of the dedication of Killum